

Question Drawer.

NOTE.—Questions bearing on League or Sunday School work, will be answered in these columns from time to time as space may permit.

Q. Should officers be elected annually or semi-annually?

A. The constitution provides for annual election of officers only, which is much to be preferred to an election for six months. The latter is too short a term for the best work to be done.

Q. When does the Epworth League year close?

A. The last General Conference decided that the League year should close at the same time as the church year. The annual business meeting is to be held in the month of April, when officers are to be elected for the year.

Q. How can we get the older people to attend the League?

A. Invite them personally, and make them feel that they are heartily welcome. Occasionally ask one of the senior members to give a short address, or take charge of the topic. Determine that there shall be no lines of division between the old and young in the Church.

Q. Which is the better plan: to appoint leaders for the year, or from month to month?

A. Have leaders arranged for six or twelve months, and get the names printed in connection with the topics. Some changes will, of course, have to be made before the time is up, but these can be attended to by the First Vice-President.

Q. Is it wise to have associate members on Committees?

A. By all means. The very best way to interest associate members in League work is to put them on some committee, and give them work to do. There are several committees upon which associate members can do fine work, such as the floral, visiting and relief, social and literary.

Q. How often is it wise to have a social evening?

A. That depends very much upon local circumstances. In some places a social can be held to good advantage once a month. In others once a quarter or once in six months is frequent enough. It is better to introduce much of the social element into the ordinary meetings than to have social entertainments too often.

Q. Where the members have acquired the habit of coming late, what would you recommend?

A. Announce, distinctly and emphatically, that the meeting will begin absolutely on time, and then keep your promise though there are only half a dozen present. In some societies a placard is hung out with the words "I am early." When the minute announced for commencing the service arrives this is turned, and the tardy member finds himself confronted by the words "You are late."

Q. Is the Epworth League Reading Course intended to be a rival of the C.L.S.C.?

A. By no means. The Chautauqua course costs \$7.00, and this is beyond the reach of many people. There is plenty of room for a course, more popular in character, and which costs only \$2.00. The two courses appeal to two different constituencies, and there is no competition.

Q. What would you do with Committees which do not work?

A. Let the President hold the Chairmen of Committees responsible. Suggest work that ought to be done, and urge them to get at it. Remind and re-remind the delinquents until they realize the importance of the duty which has been assigned them. The President should always call for Committees to report in writing at the monthly business meeting. Verbal reports encourage carelessness.

Q. When it is necessary to hold the prayer-meeting in the church or in a room several times too large to accommodate those who attend, how can we prevent the members from scattering?

A. If the seats are movable, pile up in a corner those not likely to be used. If seats are stationary, have a certain portion curtained off, or marked in some way, which is to be regarded as the meeting place. Do not allow any one to sit outside of this. With the leader inside

the altar, and half of the members down about the stove a good meeting is well-nigh impossible. If the leader cannot induce those present to come to the front, let him go back where the principal gathering is. In some way, get together.

Q. If it is impossible to attend both League and Church prayer-meetings, which would be more helpful?

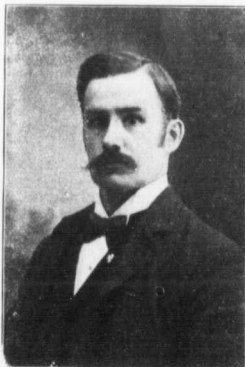
A. That depends largely on local circumstances, and the individual alone must decide. As a rule, however, the young people should endeavor to be present at the church prayer-meeting. The League meeting was never intended to take the place of the weekly meeting in which old and young participate together. Never speak of the church prayer-meeting as "The old people's meeting," for it is nothing of the kind.

Q. How can we get young men interested in the League?

A. Let the members of the League interest themselves in the young men of the neighborhood. Get acquainted with them. Give occasional social receptions, and make the regular meetings as attractive as possible without lowering the standard. Do personal work. Let those who know unconverted young men best go after them, and give them urgent and kindly invitations to attend the League services. When they join either as active or associate members, immediately give them something to do.

Prominent League Workers.

II.—REV. R. N. BURNS, B.A.



THE honor of having organized the first Epworth League in Canada belongs to Rev. R. N. Burns, B.A., of Orillia. Shortly after the amalgamation of the Young People's Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1889, he sent for the League literature, and at once took steps to have the new society introduced into the Elizabeth Street Church, Barrie, of which he was then pastor. As early as 1883 he had formed a vigorous Young People's Association in Yonge Street Church, Toronto, modelled after

the old Literary Association at Cobourg, but infused with the Christian spirit. He saw, however, that an organization which united all Methodist societies under one constitution would be an improvement. The first meeting of the League was held on October 29th, 1889. Before that Conference year was over, a convention was called of the Methodist young people of the district. It was the first gathering of the kind in Canada, and was quite successful in interesting the young people in the new society. Mr. Burns was made President of the Methodist Young People's Association of Ontario in 1891-95—an important year, which culminated in the magnificent convention in Elm Street Church, Toronto, with its rousing watchword, "Revivals and Missions."

A page in the *Christian Guardian* was edited by Mr. Burns, in the interest of Young People's work, for about a year. He had much to do with framing the first draft of constitution for the Epworth League, which was adopted by the General Conference with very few changes. He has been Secretary of the Toronto Conference, and has occupied pastorates, with eminent success, in Barrie, Gravenhurst, Toronto and Orillia. Woodgreen, Yonge Street and Wesley churches in Toronto have enjoyed his ministry. In each place he has given special attention to the young people, without in any way neglecting other departments of church work. He was on the programme at the Cleveland and Chattanooga Conventions, and occupied the chair at one of the principal meetings of the Toronto Convention. Mr. Burns is a pleasing speaker, an energetic worker, and an enthusiastic wheelman.